

Amateurs in Action

Recounts of ham radio operators who have used their effort and skills to help others in a time of need



Wyoming canyon rescue

It was just another day at the "office" for Nick Cashoili NØASL. A rolling office, that is. Nick is a truck driver from Nebraska, and on 31 October 2022, he was hauling a load through Crazy Woman Canyon in Wyoming. Not his favorite treat on this Halloween, a night of tricks; he would rather have been home dishing out goodies to the neighborhood kids.

Nick wasn't long into the canyon, when he slid off the road and was stuck. He was unharmed, but he knew things weren't good when he couldn't get a cell signal, so he



Jim Shirey N7FC

reached for his ham radio and got into a local, county-owned repeater that's run by BARK, the local Buffalo Amateur Radio Klub.

Jim Shirey N7FC was sitting comfortably in his Buffalo, Wyoming, living room when he heard his HT come to life in the form of a distress call from Nick. In any situation, immediately, the adrenaline starts pumping, Jim said. And you try to remember, in the training, what did we do? Because you haven't used it very often. You become very focused. It's intense. And, you know, it's not life or death, you're not there. But you can imagine their circumstance.



Nick Cashoili NØASL

Jim called 911, and relayed pertinent details to dispatch, including Nick's condition and location. When first responders and sheriff's deputy arrived, Nick was rescued, and things returned to normal. But it wasn't until Shirey received a postcard in the mail a few days later from Nick that he learned Nick had actually made it out of the situation without a problem and was thankful for Jim's intervention.

From the time he wakes up until he goes to bed, Jim continuously monitors the repeater that BARK typically uses to communicate with its 20-plus members. When it's all over with, you feel pretty good, he said. You feel kind of proud of yourself.

You can read more about Nick and Jim's adventure in the *Buffalo Bulletin*, Wyoming Public Media, and the *Green River Star*.